

AFBCA/DD
3411 Olson Street
McClellan, CA 95652-1003

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Public Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2002 - 6 p.m.

Fred C. Joyce School
6050 Watt Avenue, North Highlands

For more information, please contact:

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Fact Sheet

Change to CS 10 Time Critical Removal Action

Air Force Base Conversion Agency, McClellan

No. 2 - 07

October 2002

Public Comment Requested on Change to CS 10 TCRA Work Plan

The Air Force is seeking public comment on a change to the work plan for the disposal of soil and debris at the inactive disposal pit, Confirmed Site (CS) 10, at the former McClellan Air Force Base. Current funding will not cover the costs for the increased amount of soil and debris found at CS 10.

CS 10 is being excavated under a Time Critical Removal Action. Based on information learned from the excavation and soil borings, the estimate of soil and material to be removed has increased from 33,000 cubic yards to 48,000 cubic yards. The original funding for CS 10 was based on 33,000 cubic yards of material removed.

Until additional funding becomes available, the Air Force will stockpile the soil and debris under the tent that currently covers the excavation site. The drums and the contents of the drums will continue to be excavated, segregated, and disposed offsite at the appropriate licensed facility.

Stockpiling and phased disposal of the soil and debris will require a change to the CS 10 Removal Action Work Plan.

Please see inside for details of the plan.



Public Comment Period

You may submit your written comments on the Removal Action Work Plan addendum from October 21 to November 21, 2002, to:

Dawn Young
AFBCA/DD
3411 Olson Street
McClellan CA 95652-1003
Comments may be emailed to
Dyoung@afbda1.hq.af.mil

Attend the Public Meeting

You are invited to a meeting sponsored by the Air Force to hear about the Addendum to the Removal Action Work Plan and ask questions. The meeting will be held:

Wednesday, November 13, 2002 - 6 p.m.
Fred C. Joyce School (map on back)
6050 Watt Ave, North Highlands, CA

Location of the Administrative Record

McClellan Administrative Record Library
3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA
Phone: (916) 643-1250, extension 239
(See map on back.)

Addendum to the CS 10 Work Plan

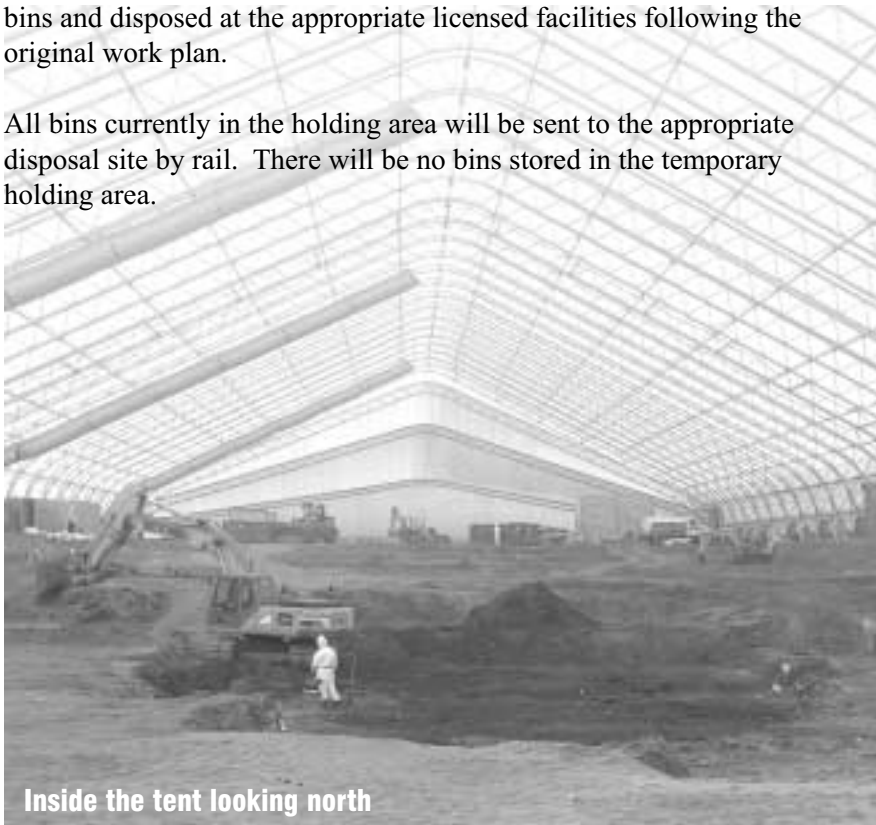
The Air Force will direct its contractor at CS 10 to continue the excavation of the disposal pit. The contractor will identify, excavate and properly dispose of the remaining drums, following the work plan, while staging soil within the tent.

When the change is implemented, drums and the contents of the drums will be evaluated, put in bins, and sent by truck to the appropriate disposal site. The soil, however, will be placed in piles within the weatherization tent. These piles will be deposited in the area already excavated moving from south to north. (See diagram to the right.) The piles of soil will be placed on heavy plastic liners. Each pile will be about 60 feet long by 56 feet wide and about 15 feet high. It is estimated that there will be 14 piles of soil. There will be three-foot-high concrete barriers separating the piles.

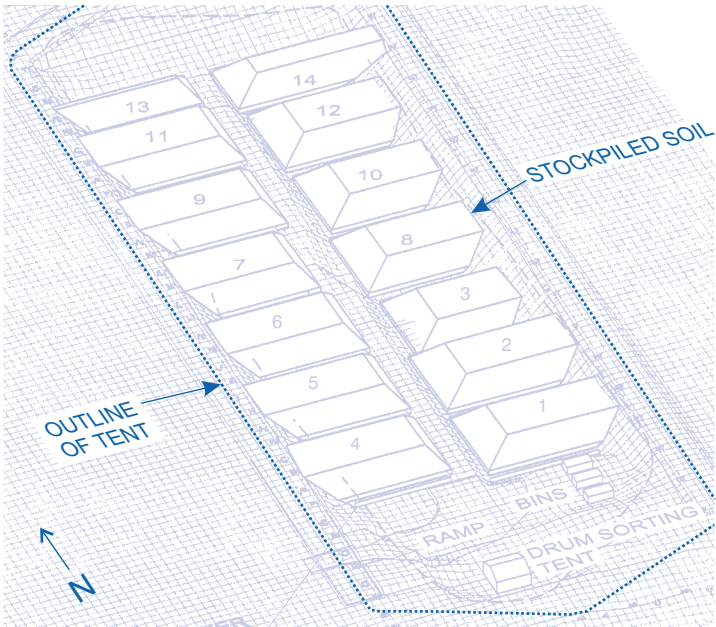
Once all of the drums have been removed from the site and the soil has been staged, the piles will remain in place and continue to be monitored. During that time there will be daily inspections of the site both inside and outside of the tent. All current air and groundwater monitoring will continue. All current security measures for the site will also continue.

As further funding becomes available, the soil will be placed into bins and disposed of at the appropriate licensed facilities following the original work plan.

All bins currently in the holding area will be sent to the appropriate disposal site by rail. There will be no bins stored in the temporary holding area.



Inside the tent looking north



Temporary storage within the tent

Safety Measures

The safety of the community and workers is the first priority.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department are prepared to respond to emergencies at the site. They receive status updates as necessary.

To verify there is no airborne radioactivity, 24-hour air monitoring stations have been positioned around the perimeter of the site. The air monitoring shows no airborne activity other than normal background levels.

Groundwater continues to be monitored for radionuclides. The groundwater monitoring results for radionuclides meet the established regulatory levels for drinking water.

All radioactive material and hazardous waste excavated from CS 10 are being documented from excavation to final disposal. The waste is stored, transported and disposed of in compliance with all federal, state and local regulations and requirements.

The Options

The addendum to the work plan at CS 10 is being prepared based on the current information and the new estimated volume of 48,000 cubic yards.

Several options were considered in preparing this addendum:

1. Continue excavation and disposal until existing funding is exhausted. This could mean work would stop temporarily at the point when the current funding was used. The project would continue when additional money becomes available.

The Air Force determined this option would not meet Time Critical Removal Action requirements to determine the extent and the contents of the disposal site.

2. Put the excavated material in bins and store the bins at the holding area until further funding is obtained.

The Air Force determined this option was too costly due to bin rental expenses and that it was prudent to keep the soil at the site within the weatherization tent.

3. Continue the excavation to determine the contents of the entire disposal site and properly dispose of drums still buried in the disposal pit. Soil and debris will be stockpiled and shipped at a later date when additional funding is received.

The Air Force is proceeding with option three. This would meet the CS 10 Time Critical Removal Action objective to determine the extent and contents of the disposal pit and drummed waste.

CS 10 History

Early 1950s to mid-1960s:

Records indicate CS 10 was an active disposal pit.

1980s:

CS 10 identified as an inactive disposal site. A review of aerial photographs and ground-penetrating radar surveys further identified the site.

1990s:

In an initial investigation in 1994, the Air Force identified drums marked with radioactive labels in the inactive disposal site. More investigations of the site were conducted and cleanup documents were prepared.

August 2000

In August 2000, the Air Force began removing surface contamination and investigating the contents of the buried drums in a non-time critical removal action. Base officials expected to uncover sources of radiation, primarily radium 226, which was commonly added to paint applied to aircraft gauges and instruments for night-time illumination.

September 2000

Work was halted on the site when several small jars and vials of liquid labeled "plutonium" were discovered. The liquid was confirmed as containing a small amount of plutonium. The bottles and vials containing plutonium were removed following strict Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Transportation procedures.

November 2000

With the unexpected discovery of plutonium, the Air Force, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and Regional Water Quality Control Board agreed that a Time Critical Removal Action of the site was appropriate.

February 2001

A 30-day public comment period was held that included a public meeting. This allowed the public to gain information on the disposal pit cleanup and to comment on the draft CS 10 TCRA Work Plan.

July 2001

A weatherization tent was constructed to protect the site from wind, rain and sun. While not required for excavation of a disposal site, the tent allows workers to excavate and remove waste in a controlled environment year-round.

Current, September 26, 2002

At this time 22,528 cubic yards of material and debris have been excavated, 373 drums removed, and their contents inventoried and disposed off site.